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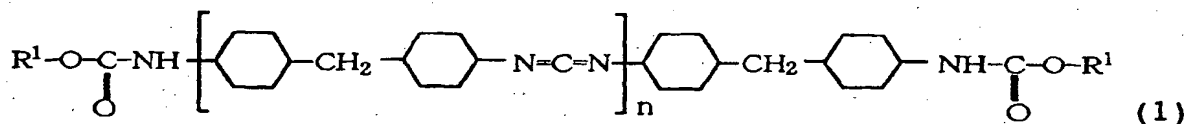
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(54) **Hydrophilic Dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide**

(57) A hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein n is an integer of 1 to 10 and R¹ is a residue of a mixture of organic compounds of different hydrophilicities each having at least one hydroxyl group capable of reacting with isocyanate group.

The hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide is improved in reactivity and storage stability, thereby is easy to handle as a crosslinking agent for hydrophilic resin, and has alleviated the problems of the prior art.

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Description

Background of the Invention

(1) Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a novel hydrophilic carbodiimide. More particularly, the present invention relates to a hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodi-imide which is improved in reactivity and storage stability and thereby is easy to handle as a crosslinking agent for hydrophilic resin.

(2) Description of the Prior Art

[0002] Hydrophilic resins are in use in many applications such as coatings, inks, textile treatment agents, adhesives and the like. They, however, are inferior to lipophilic resins in water resistance because they have hydrophilicity.

[0003] To improve the water resistance of a hydrophilic resin, it has been conducted to use a crosslinking agent together with the resin. As the crosslinking agent, there is used a compound having methylol group, ethyleneimine group, epoxy group, isocyanate group or the like.

[0004] Some of such conventional crosslinking agents are excellent in imparting water resistance of hydrophilic resins. In recent years, hydrophilic resins have come to be used in wider applications and more excellent properties are required. In many cases, hydrophilic resins are required to have crosslinkability at low to ordinary temperature. Hydrophilic resins are also required to have good storage stability after the crosslinking agents are mixed therewith, and no hazardous effects to human, and so on. The above crosslinking agents, however, are not fully effective when used in hydrophilic resins at low to ordinary temperature, and incapable of giving hydrophilic resins sufficient water resistance, and, moreover, they are not sufficiently safe in view of the hazard to human health (skin stimulation etc.).

[0005] Recently, attention has been paid to those carbodiimide compounds which are used in amidation between carboxyl group and amino group, peptide synthesis from amino acid, etc., because such carbodiimide compounds can act as a crosslinking agent for hydrophilic resin and have high safety.

[0006] With respect to the technique of using a carbodiimide compound as a crosslinking agent, there are disclosed a polycarbodiimide derived from isophorone diisocyanate and a method for crosslinking of hydrophilic resin using the polycarbodiimide, in, for example, JP-A-59-187029 and JP-B-5-27450.

[0007] In the above method, the crosslinking of hydrophilic resin is conducted by utilization of a reaction between the carbodiimide group of polycarbodiimide and the active hydrogen of active hydrogen compound, for example, a reaction between the carbodiimide group of polycarbodiimide and the carboxylic group contained in hydrophilic acrylic resin.

[0008] The above-mentioned carbodiimide compound derived from isophorone diisocyanate, however, is highly reactive and has had problems in that (1) the storage stability after addition to hydrophilic resin is low because of the high reactivity and (2) the time from addition to hydrophilic resin, to application of the mixture is short.

[0009] In JP-A-7-330849 is described a carbodiimide compound derived from tetramethylxylene diisocyanate, which has good storage stability after addition to hydrophilic resin. In this carbodiimide compound derived from tetramethylxylene diisocyanate, the reactivity of the carbodiimide group is low and, therefore, the storage stability of the compound after addition to hydrophilic resin is superior to that of the carbodiimide compound derived from isophorone diisocyanate. In using the carbodiimide compound derived from tetramethylxylene diisocyanate, however, a long time is taken for the crosslinking and there are cases that no sufficient effect is obtained when the crosslinking is conducted at low temperatures and in a short time.

[0010] As a carbodiimide compound capable of exhibiting a sufficient effect in crosslinking of low temperatures and in a short time, there is disclosed, in JP-A-10-30024, a multi-branching type carbodiimide compound having four or more branches each having carbodiimide group. This multi-branching type carbodiimide compound, as compared with straight-chain carbodiimide compounds, can give a high crosslink density even in the crosslinking of low temperatures and short time; however, the compound has no good storage stability after addition to hydrophilic resin and its storage period is shorter than that of straight-chain carbodiimide compounds.

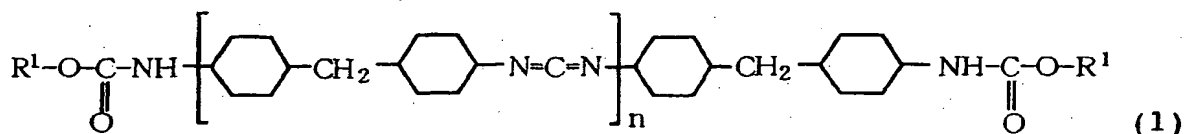
Summary of the Invention

[0011] In view of the above situation, the present invention has an object of providing a hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide which is improved in reactivity and storage stability and thereby is easy to handle as a crosslinking agent for hydrophilic resin.

[0012] The present inventors made a study in order to achieve the above object. As a result, the present inventors found out that when an organic compound of high hydrophilicity and an organic compound of low hydrophilicity are used in combination to obtain a hydrophilic carbodiimide compound, the organic compound of low hydrophilicity protects the

carbodiimide group which reacts with the functional group (e.g. carboxyl group) contained in the hydrophilic resin; as a result, when the resulting carbodiimide compound is added to a hydrophilic resin, the reactivity of the carbodiimide compound with the functional group (e.g. carboxyl group) contained in the hydrophilic resin can be reduced; consequently, the carbodiimide compound has significantly improved storage stability despite of the high reactivity, as compared with conventional hydrophilic carbodiimide compounds. The present invention has been completed based on the above finding.

[0013] According to the present invention there is provided a hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide represented by the following general formula (1):

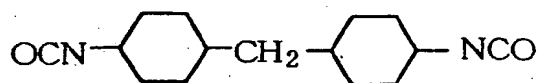


wherein n is an integer of 1 to 10 and R^1 is a residue of a mixture of organic compounds of different hydrophilicities each having at least one hydroxyl group capable of reacting with isocyanate group.

Detailed Description of the Invention

[0014] The present invention is hereinafter described in detail.

[0015] The hydrophilic carbodiimide compound of the present invention is represented by the above general formula (1) and is obtained by a reaction of an isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide obtained from 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate



with a mixture of organic compounds of different hydrophilicities each having at least one hydroxyl group capable of reacting with isocyanate group.

[0016] In the above general formula (1), n represents an integer of 1 to 10.

[0017] The hydrophilic carbodiimide compound of the present invention having the above-mentioned feature can be produced specifically by subjecting the above 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate to a condensation reaction where carbon dioxide is removed, to form an isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide and then reacting this carbodiimide with a mixture of organic compounds of different hydrophilicities each having at least one hydroxyl group capable of reacting with isocyanate group.

[0018] The formation of the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide can be conducted based on conventional processes for polycarbodiimide production (see US Patent 2,941,956; JP-B-47-33279; J. Org. Chem., 28, 2069 to 2076 (1963); Chemical Review 1981, Vol. 81, No. 4, 619-4,621).

[0019] The condensation reaction of the dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate where carbon dioxide is removed, proceeds in the presence of a carbodiimidization catalyst. As the catalyst, there can be used, for example, a phosphorene oxide such as 1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide, 3-methyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide, 1-ethyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide, 1-ethyl-3-methyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide, 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide, 3-phosphorene isomer thereof, or the like. Of these, 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide is preferred in view of the reactivity.

[0020] The reaction temperature of the condensation reaction is preferably about 80 to 180°C. When the reaction temperature is lower than the range, a very long reaction time is required; when the reaction temperature is higher than the range, side reactions take place and it is impossible to obtain a carbodiimide of good quality; therefore, neither case is preferred.

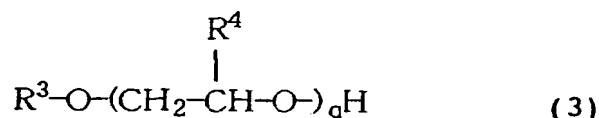
[0021] The condensation degree of the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide is preferably 1 to 10. When the condensation degree is higher than 10, the dispersibility of the hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide added to a hydrophilic resin is low; and uniform solution or dispersion of the hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide could not be obtained owing to the low dispersibility. To complete the condensation reaction as quickly as possible, it is preferred to conduct the reaction in a current of an inert gas such as nitrogen or the like.

[0022] As the organic compounds having at least one hydroxyl group capable of reacting with isocyanate group, various organic compounds can be used. As the organic compound of high hydrophilicity, there can be mentioned, for example, a poly(ethylene oxide) having an alkoxy-blocked terminal, represented by the following general formula (2):



(wherein p is an integer of 4 to 30 and R^2 is a lower alkyl group). Specific examples thereof are a poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether and a poly(ethylene oxide) monoethyl ether. A poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether is particularly preferred. Incidentally, in the present specification, the term "lower" refers to 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

[0023] As the organic compound of low hydrophilicity having at least one hydroxyl group capable of reacting with isocyanate group, there can be mentioned, for example, a poly(alkylene oxide) having an alkoxy-blocked terminal, represented by the following general formula (3):



(wherein q is an integer of 1 to 3; R^3 is a lower alkyl group or a phenyl group; and R^4 is a lower alkyl group). Specific examples thereof are a poly(propylene oxide) monomethyl ether, a poly(propylene oxide) monoethyl ether and a poly(propylene oxide) monophenyl ether. A poly(propylene oxide) monomethyl ether is particularly preferred.

[0024] As the organic compound of low hydrophilicity having at least one hydroxyl group capable of reacting with isocyanate group, there can also be mentioned, for example, a dialkylaminoalcohol represented by the following general formula (4):



(wherein R^5 is a lower alkyl group and R^6 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group). Specific examples thereof are 3-dimethylamino-1-propanol, 3-diethylamino-1-propanol and 1-diethylamino-2-propanol. 1-diethylamino-2-propanol is particularly preferred.

[0025] In the present invention, the mixture of organic compounds of different hydrophilicities each having at least one hydroxyl group capable of reacting with isocyanate group, is preferably a mixture containing an organic compound of high hydrophilicity and an organic compound of low hydrophilicity at a molar ratio of 1:1 to 1:19. When the molar ratio of the two organic compounds is outside of this range, for example, when the proportion of the organic compound of low hydrophilicity is lower than specified, the protection of the carbodiimide group by the organic compound of low hydrophilicity is not sufficient; and when the resulting hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide is added to a hydrophilic resin, the reaction of the carbodiimide compound with the functional group (e.g. carboxyl group) contained in the hydrophilic resin proceeds, resultant mixed solution has low storage stability. When only the organic compound of low hydrophilicity is used, the dispersibility of the hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide added to a hydrophilic resin is low; and uniform solution or dispersion of the hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide could not be obtained owing to the low dispersibility.

[0026] The addition reaction of the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide with the mixture of organic compounds of different hydrophilicities each having at least one hydroxyl group capable of reacting with isocyanate group may be conducted using a catalyst, but the reaction proceeds easily only by heating.

[0027] The reaction temperature of the above reaction is about 60 to about 160°C, preferably about 100 to about 150°C. When the reaction temperature is lower than the range, a very long reaction time is required; when the reaction temperature is higher than the range, side reactions take place and it is impossible to obtain a hydrophilic carbodiimide of good quality; therefore, neither case is preferred.

[0028] The hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide of the present invention can be isolated from the reaction system by an ordinary method. That the compound has a structure represented by the general formula (1) can be confirmed by its IR absorption spectrum or NMR absorption spectrum.

[0029] The hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide produced as above can be used in various forms. When added to a hydrophilic resin or the like, it may be added thereto as it is; however, addition in the form of an aqueous solution or dispersion is preferred for easy mixing.

[0030] Incidentally, the term "hydrophilic" used for the present dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide means that the compound is water-soluble or self-emulsifiable, has sufficient compatibility with water, and can form a uniform solution or

emulsion with water.

Examples

5 [0031] The present invention is described in more detail below by way of Examples.

Example 1 Synthesis of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide

10 [0032] 578 g of 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate was reacted with 2.9 g of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide (a carbodiimidization catalyst) at 180°C for 15 hours to obtain an isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide (condensation degree = 4). To the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide was added a mixture of 242.5 g of a poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether having a condensation degree p of about 12 and 39.7 g of propylene glycol monomethyl ether (their molar ratio in mixture = 1:1). The resulting mixture was subjected to a reaction at 150°C for 5 hours. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 80°C. Thereto was slowly added 1,173 g of distilled water to obtain a light yellow transparent carbodiimide solution (resin concentration = 40% by weight).

Example 2 Synthesis of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide

20 [0033] 578 g of 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate was reacted with 2.9 g of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide (a carbodiimidization catalyst) at 180°C for 15 hours to obtain an isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide (condensation degree = 4). To the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide was added a mixture of 145.5 g of a poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether having a condensation degree p of about 12 and 55.6 g of propylene glycol monomethyl ether (their molar ratio in mixture = 3:7). The resulting mixture was subjected to a reaction at 150°C for 5 hours. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 80°C. Thereto was slowly added 1,052 g of distilled water to obtain a light yellow transparent carbodiimide solution (resin concentration = 40% by weight).

Example 3 Synthesis of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide

30 [0034] 578 g of 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate was reacted with 2.9 g of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide (a carbodiimidization catalyst) at 180°C for 15 hours to obtain an isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide (condensation degree = 4). To the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide was added a mixture of 48.5 g of a poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether having a condensation degree p of about 12 and 71.4 g of propylene glycol monomethyl ether (their molar ratio in mixture = 1:9). The resulting mixture was subjected to a reaction at 150°C for 5 hours. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 80°C. Thereto was slowly added 930 g of distilled water to obtain an emulsive carbodiimide solution (resin concentration = 40% by weight).

Example 4 Synthesis of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide

40 [0035] 578 g of 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate was reacted with 2.9 g of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide (a carbodiimidization catalyst) at 180°C for 15 hours to obtain an isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide (condensation degree = 4). To the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide was added a mixture of 48.5 g of a poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether having a condensation degree p of about 12 and 117.5 g of dipropylene glycol monomethyl ether (their molar ratio in mixture = 1:9). The resulting mixture was subjected to a reaction at 150°C for 5 hours. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 80°C. Thereto was slowly added 999 g of distilled water to obtain an emulsive carbodiimide solution (resin concentration = 40% by weight).

Example 5 Synthesis of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide

50 [0036] 578 g of 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate was reacted with 2.9 g of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide (a carbodiimidization catalyst) at 180°C for 15 hours to obtain an isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide (condensation degree = 4). To the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide was added a mixture of 48.5 g of a poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether having a condensation degree p of about 12 and 163.5 g of tripropylene glycol monomethyl ether (their molar ratio in mixture = 1:9). The resulting mixture was subjected to a reaction at 150°C for 5 hours. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 80°C. Thereto was slowly added 1,068 g of distilled water to obtain an emulsive carbodiimide solution (resin concentration = 40% by weight).

Example 6 Synthesis of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide

[0037] 578 g of 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate was reacted with 2.9 g of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide (a carbodiimidization catalyst) at 180°C for 15 hours to obtain an isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide (condensation degree = 4). To the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide was added a mixture of 48.5 g of a poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether having a condensation degree p of about 12 and 120.6 g of propylene glycol monophenyl ether (their molar ratio in mixture = 1:9). The resulting mixture was subjected to a reaction at 150°C for 5 hours. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 80°C. Thereto was slowly added 1,004 g of distilled water to obtain an emulsive carbodiimide solution (resin concentration = 40% by weight).

Example 7 Synthesis of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide

[0038] 578 g of 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate was reacted with 2.9 g of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide (a carbodiimidization catalyst) at 180°C for 15 hours to obtain an isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide (condensation degree = 4). To the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide was added a mixture of 242.5 g of a poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether having a condensation degree p of about 12 and 57.8 g of N,N-diethylisopropanolamine (their molar ratio in mixture = 1:1). The resulting mixture was subjected to a reaction at 150°C for 5 hours. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 80°C. Thereto was slowly added 1,200 g of distilled water to obtain a light yellow transparent carbodiimide solution (resin concentration = 40% by weight).

Example 8 Synthesis of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide

[0039] 578 g of 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate was reacted with 2.9 g of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide (a carbodiimidization catalyst) at 180°C for 15 hours to obtain an isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide (condensation degree = 4). To the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide was added a mixture of 145.5 g of a poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether having a condensation degree p of about 12 and 80.9 g of N,N-diethylisopropanolamine (their molar ratio in mixture = 3:7). The resulting mixture was subjected to a reaction at 150°C for 5 hours. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 80°C. Thereto was slowly added 1,080 g of distilled water to obtain a light yellow transparent carbodiimide solution (resin concentration = 40% by weight).

Example 9 Synthesis of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide

[0040] 578 g of 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate was reacted with 2.9 g of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide (a carbodiimidization catalyst) at 180°C for 15 hours to obtain an isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide (condensation degree = 4). To the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide was added a mixture of 48.5 g of a poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether having a condensation degree p of about 12 and 104.0 g of N,N-diethylisopropanolamine (their molar ratio in mixture = 1:9). The resulting mixture was subjected to a reaction at 150°C for 5 hours. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 80°C. Thereto was slowly added 979 g of distilled water to obtain an emulsive carbodiimide solution (resin concentration = 40% by weight).

Example 10 synthesis of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide

[0041] 584 g of 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate was reacted with 2.9 g of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide (a carbodiimidization catalyst) at 180°C for 17 hours to obtain an isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide (condensation degree = 6). To the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide was added a mixture of 242.5 g of a poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether having a condensation degree p of about 12 and 39.7 g of propylene glycol monomethyl ether (their molar ratio in mixture = 1:1). The resulting mixture was subjected to a reaction at 150°C for 5 hours. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 80°C. Thereto was slowly added 1,173 g of distilled water to obtain an emulsive carbodiimide solution (resin concentration = 40% by weight).

Example 11 Synthesis of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide

[0042] 589 g of 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate was reacted with 3.0 g of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide (a carbodiimidization catalyst) at 180°C for 21 hours to obtain an isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide (condensation degree = 9). To the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide was added a mixture of 242.5 g of a poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether having a condensation degree p of about 12 and 39.7 g of propylene glycol monomethyl ether (their molar ratio in mixture = 1:1). The resulting mixture was subjected to a reaction at 150°C for 5 hours. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 80°C. Thereto was slowly added 1,173 g of distilled water to obtain an emulsive carbodiimide solution (resin concentration = 40% by weight).

g of distilled water to obtain an emulsive carbodiimide solution (resin concentration = 40% by weight).

Comparative Example 1 Synthesis 1 of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide

5 [0043] 578 g of 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate was reacted with 2.9 g of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide (a carbodiimidization catalyst) at 180°C for 15 hours to obtain an isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethane-carbodiimide (condensation degree = 4). To the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide was added 485.0 g of a poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether having a condensation degree P of about 12. The resulting mixture was subjected to a reaction at 150°C for 5 hours. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 50°C. Thereto was slowly added 1,478 g of distilled water to obtain a light yellow transparent carbodiimide solution (resin concentra-
10 tion = 40% by weight).

Comparative Example 2 Synthesis of hydrophilic isophoronecarbodiimide

15 [0044] 594 g of isophorone diisocyanate was reacted with 2.9 g of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide (a carbodiimidization catalyst) at 180°C for 10 hours to obtain an isocyanate-terminated isophoronecarbodiimide (condensation degree = 4). To the isocyanate-terminated isophoronecarbodiimide was added 588.8 g of a poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether having a condensation degree P of about 12. The resulting mixture was subjected to a reaction at 150°C for 5 hours. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 50°C. Thereto was slowly added 1,633 g of
20 distilled water to obtain a light yellow transparent carbodiimide solution (resin concentration = 40% by weight).

Comparative Example 3 synthesis of hydrophilic tetramethylxylylenecarbodiimide

25 [0045] 584 g of m-tetramethylxylylene diisocyanate was reacted with 11.7 g of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide (a carbodiimidization catalyst) at 180°C for 20 hours to obtain an isocyanate-terminated tetramethylxylylenecarbodiimide (condensation degree = 4). To the isocyanate-terminated tetramethylxylylenecarbodiimide was added 526.8 g of a poly(ethylene oxide) monomethyl ether having a condensation degree P of about 12. The resulting mixture was subjected to a reaction at 150°C for 6 hours. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 50°C. Thereto was slowly added 1,558 g of distilled water to obtain a light yellow-amber transparent carbodiimide solution (resin concentra-
30 tion = 40% by weight).

Comparative Example 4 Synthesis 2 of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide

35 [0046] 578 g of 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate was reacted with 2.9 g of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phosphorene-1-oxide (a carbodiimidization catalyst) at 180°C for 15 hours to obtain an isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethane-carbodiimide (condensation degree = 4). To the isocyanate-terminated dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide was added 79.4 g of propylene glycol monomethyl ether. The resulting mixture was subjected to a reaction at 150°C for 5 hours. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to 50°C. Thereto was slowly added 869 g of distilled water so that the resin concentration in the resulting mixture became 40% by weight. Agglomeration of carbodiimide resin occurred
40 and it was impossible to obtain a uniform carbodiimide solution. The obtained carbodiimide resin per se was added to a hydrophilic resin, but the carbodiimide resin caused agglomeration, making it impossible to obtain a uniform mixture.

Reference Example 1 Storage stabilities 1 of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimides when added to hydrophilic resin

45 [0047] Each of the hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide solutions obtained in Examples 1 to 9 was mixed with a carboxyl group-containing urethane type hydrophilic resin (acid value = 30mgKOH/g, resin concentration = 33% by weight) so that the carbodiimide group and the carboxyl group became 1:1 in equivalent. The mixed solution was measured for viscosity change at 25°C. For comparison, the same test was conducted for each of the hydrophilic car-
50 bodiimide solutions obtained in Comparative Examples 1 to 3. The test results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Hydrophilic Carbodiimide	Storage period						
	Right after mixing	1 day	3 day	7 day	14 day	28 day	42 day
Example 1	290cp	205cp	193cp	195cp	247cp	290cp	373cp

Table 1 (continued)

Hydrophilic Carbodiimide	Storage period						
	Right after mixing	1 day	3 day	7 day	14 day	28 day	42 day
Example 2	277cp	198cp	151cp	166cp	198cp	244cp	321cp
Example 3	252cp	181cp	140cp	156cp	183cp	221cp	269cp
Example 4	271cp	197cp	160cp	170cp	197cp	227cp	284cp
Example 5	291cp	196cp	154cp	171cp	193cp	237cp	309cp
Example 6	260cp	183cp	147cp	162cp	188cp	219cp	280cp
Example 7	333cp	244cp	209cp	226cp	248cp	271cp	303cp
Example 8	319cp	208cp	153cp	160cp	168cp	189cp	200cp
Example 9	315cp	197cp	122cp	125cp	131cp	140cp	167cp
Example 10	295cp	207cp	201cp	210cp	260cp	305cp	365cp
Example 11	308cp	221cp	230cp	235cp	307cp	340cp	411cp
Comparative Example 1	572cp	599cp	647cp	Gelation			
Comparative Example 2	583cp	708cp	Gelation				
Comparative Example 3	343cp	361cp	395cp	477cp	543cp	689cp	Gelation

Reference Example 2 Crosslinking abilities 1 of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimides

[0048] Each of the hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide solutions obtained in Examples 1 to 9 was mixed with a carboxyl group-containing urethane type hydrophilic resin (to which a blue pigment had been added) (acid value = 30mgKOH/g, resin concentration = 33% by weight) so that the carbodiimide group and the carboxyl group became 1:1 in equivalent. The mixed solution was casted on a polyethylene terephthalate film (thickness = 100 μ m), followed by drying at 80°C for 20 minutes to form a coating film having an as-dried thickness of about 30 μ m. The surface of the coating film was rubbed with a solvent-infiltrated absorbent cotton (the solvent is shown below) to examine the times of rubbing needed for the absorbent cotton to become blue or for the coating film to be peeled. For comparison, the same test was conducted for each of the hydrophilic carbodiimide solutions obtained in Comparative Examples 1 to 3. The test results are shown in Table 2.

Solvent

[0049]

- 0.28% ammonia water
- Water/methanol mixed solvent (mixing ratio: water/methanol = 4/6 in weight)
- Ethyl acetate

Table 2

Hydrophilic carbodiimide	Solvent resistance test (times of rubbing)		
	0.28% ammonia water	Water/methanol	Water/methanol
Example 1	More than 100	More than 100	17
Example 2	More than 100	More than 100	16
Example 3	More than 100	More than 100	25
Example 4	More than 100	More than 100	15
Example 5	More than 100	More than 100	19
Example 6	More than 100	More than 100	20

Table 2 (continued)

Hydrophilic carbodiimide	Solvent resistance test (times of rubbing)		
	0.28% ammonia water	Water/methanol	Water/methanol
Example 7	More than 100	More than 100	17
Example 8	More than 100	More than 100	19
Example 9	More than 100	More than 100	23
Example 10	More than 100	More than 100	17
Example 11	More than 100	More than 100	21
Comparative Example 1	More than 100	More than 100	17
Comparative Example 2	More than 100	More than 100	19
Comparative Example 3	69	25	8
No addition	58	18	8

Reference Example 3 Storage stabilities 2 of hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimides when added to hydrophilic resin

[0050] 6 g of each of the hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide solutions obtained in Examples 1 to 9 was mixed with 100 g of a carboxyl group-containing acrylic type hydrophilic resin used in textile printing inks. The mixed solution was measured for viscosity change at 40°C. For comparison, the same test was conducted for each of the hydrophilic carbodiimide solutions obtained in Comparative Examples 1 to 3. The test results are shown in Table 3.

Table 3

Hydrophilic carbodiimide	Storage period						
	Right after mixing	1 hour	3 hour	6 hour	9 hour	12 hour	15 hour
Example 1	455cp	455cp	491cp	552cp	590cp	631cp	680cp
Example 2	487cp	471cp	502cp	517cp	592cp	619cp	663cp
Example 3	484cp	468cp	484cp	520cp	528cp	532cp	539cp
Example 4	524cp	525cp	517cp	581cp	591cp	617cp	630cp
Example 5	527cp	529cp	536cp	599cp	610cp	634cp	660cp
Example 6	498cp	485cp	491cp	520cp	536cp	544cp	556cp
Example 7	548cp	369cp	374cp	341cp	351cp	370cp	408cp
Example 8	558cp	496cp	468cp	470cp	515cp	525cp	548cp
Example 9	486cp	445cp	477cp	445cp	450cp	483cp	540cp
Example 10	462cp	470cp	488cp	543cp	587cp	635cp	690cp
Example 11	471cp	482cp	487cp	550cp	609cp	673cp	688cp
Comparative Example 1	540cp	624cp	727cp	Gelation			
Comparative Example 2	591cp	730cp	Gelation				
Comparative Example 3	522cp	539cp	538cp	547cp	560cp	571cp	589cp

Reference Example 4 Crosslinking abilities 2 of hydrophilic Dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimides

[0051] 6 g of each of the hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide solutions obtained in Examples 1 to 9 was mixed with 100 g of a carboxyl group-containing acrylic type hydrophilic resin used in textile printing inks. The mixed solution was casted on a polyethylene terephthalate film (thickness = 100 μm), followed by drying at 80°C for 5 minutes

and then at 130°C for 2 minutes to form a coating film having an as-dried thickness of about 50 μm. The surface of the coating film was rubbed with a water-infiltrated absorbent cotton to examine the times of rubbing up to when the base material (the polyethylene terephthalate film) became visible. For comparison, the same test was conducted for each of the hydrophilic carbodiimide solutions obtained in Comparative Examples 1 to 3. The test results are shown in Table 4.

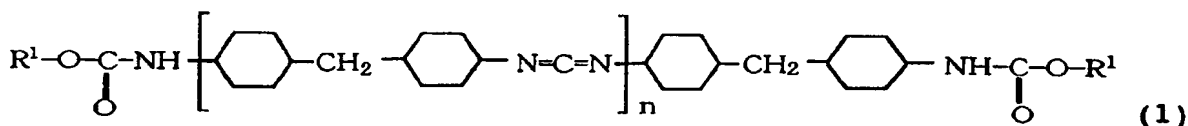
Table 4

Hydrophilic carbodiimide	Water resistance test (times of rubbing)
Example 1	4
Example 2	11
Example 3	13
Example 4	8
Example 5	8
Example 6	10
Example 7	4
Example 8	5
Example 9	6
Example 10	6
Example 11	9
Comparative Example 1	3
Comparative Example 2	4
Comparative Example 3	5
No addition	3

[0052] As is clear from Tables 1 to 4, the hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimides of the present invention, as compared with other hydrophilic carbodiimides, are superior in storage stability when added to a hydrophilic resin and have high reactivity; therefore, can act as an excellent crosslinking agent for hydrophilic resin.

Claims

1. A hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide represented by the following general formula (1):

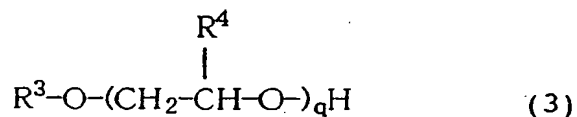


wherein n is an integer of 1 to 10 and R¹ is a residue of a mixture of organic compounds of different hydrophilicities each having at least one hydroxyl group capable of reacting with isocyanate group.

2. A hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide according to Claim 1, wherein R¹ is a residue of a mixture of a poly(ethylene oxide) having an alkoxy-blocked terminal, represented by the following general formula (2):



(wherein p is an integer of 4 to 30 and R² is a lower alkyl group) and a poly(alkylene oxide) having an alkoxy-blocked terminal, represented by the following general formula (3):

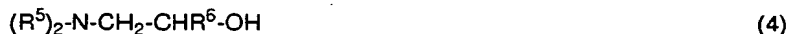


(wherein q is an integer of 1 to 3; R³ is a lower alkyl group or a phenyl group; and R⁴ is a lower alkyl group).

3. A hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide according to Claim 2, wherein the molar ratio of the poly(ethylene oxide) having an alkoxy-blocked terminal, represented by the general formula (2) and the poly(alkylene oxide) having an alkoxy-blocked terminal, represented by the general formula (3) is 1:1 to 1:19.
4. A hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide according to Claim 1, wherein R¹ is a residue of a mixture of a poly(ethylene oxide) having an alkoxy-blocked terminal, represented by the following general formula (2):



(wherein p is an integer of 4 to 30 and R² is a lower alkyl group) and a dialkylaminoalcohol represented by the following general formula (4):



(wherein R⁵ is a lower alkyl group and R⁶ is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group).

5. A hydrophilic dicyclohexylmethanecarbodiimide according to Claim 4, wherein the molar ratio of the poly(ethylene oxide) having an alkoxy-blocked terminal, represented by the general formula (2) and the dialkylaminoalcohol represented by the general formula (4) is 1:1 to 1:19.

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